



SAFAR

Why in News

Recently, [SAFAR \(System of Air Quality and Weather Forecast and Research\)](#) has studied post Diwali Air Pollution in the **four Indian Cities** (Delhi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Pune).

- Air pollution during the Diwali period in 2021 was higher compared to 2020 in the three metropolitan cities of **Delhi, Ahmedabad and Mumbai, whereas** Pune was the **only city among the four** which had lower pollution levels.
- High PM in Delhi during the Diwali period **is due to high local emissions**, combined with the [biomass burning effect](#).

Key Point

▪ About:

- SAFAR is a national initiative introduced by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** to measure the air quality of a metropolitan city, by measuring the overall pollution level and the location-specific air quality of the city.
- It is an integral part of **India's first Air Quality Early Warning System** operational in Delhi.
- It monitors all weather parameters like **temperature, rainfall, humidity, wind speed, and wind direction, UV radiation, and solar radiation**.
- The [World Meteorological Organization](#) has recognized SAFAR as a prototype activity on the basis of the high-quality control and standards maintained in its implementation.

▪ Pollutants Monitored:

- [PM2.5](#), [PM10](#), Ozone, Carbon Monoxide (CO), Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂), Benzene, Toluene, Xylene, and Mercury.

▪ Developed By:

- The system is indigenously developed by the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, Pune and is operationalized by the [India Meteorological Department \(IMD\)](#).
 - IITM has a giant true color LED (Light Emitting Diode) display that gives out a **real-time Air Quality Index (AQI) on a 24x7 basis** with color-coding (along with 72 hours advance forecast).

▪ Objectives:

- To **increase awareness among the general public regarding the air quality** in their city so that appropriate mitigation measures and systematic action can be taken up.
- To help the policy-makers develop **mitigation strategies keeping in mind the nation's economic development**.

▪ Significance:

- It will **benefit cost savings** to several other sectors like agriculture, [aviation](#), [infrastructure](#), [disaster management](#), [tourism](#), etc. which directly or indirectly gets

affected by air quality and weather.

Air Quality Index (AQI)

- It is an index for reporting daily air quality. It displays the **changes in air pollution in the atmosphere.**
- It focuses **on health effects one might experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air.**
- AQI keeps a tab on **8 major air pollutants in the atmosphere namely,**
 - [Ground-level ozone,](#)
 - PM10,
 - PM2.5,
 - Carbon monoxide,
 - Sulfur dioxide,
 - Nitrogen dioxide,
 - Ammonia,
 - Lead,
- Ground-level ozone and airborne particles are the two pollutants that pose the greatest threat to human health in India.

[Source: DTE](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/safar-1>

